

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were originally filed in the present Application. Claims 1-10 stand withdrawn pursuant to Election/Restriction Requirement. Claims 11-21 were examined in the Office Action mailed October 14, 2005.

Claim Objection: Claim 11 has been amended to correct the typographic error in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Section § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection: Claims 11-19 stand rejected as indefinite as unclear as to how a compressed air tank is used to detect a pressure drop.

The Applicants have amended claim 11 to recite a pressure sensor, and detection of the pressure drop with the sensor (*e.g.*, pressure sensor 32 in Fig. 1). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Based On The Kononov Reference: Claims 11-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of, U.S. Patent No. 4,881,176 to Kononov ("Kononov").¹ The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that Kononov fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the present invention recited in independent claim 11 and its dependent claims.

As noted in the Applicants' previous response, Claim 11 is directed to,

¹ The Applicants have canceled claim 21, without prejudice to the subject matter therein, thereby rendering moot the § 103(a) rejection of claim 21 as obvious over Kononov in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,714,379 to Phipps, Jr..

inter alia, a filter testing device for testing filters which are *attached* to the testing device. Due to the potential for contamination of the testing device of return flow from the contaminated side of a filter being tested, the testing device must be arranged to provide for cleaning of its internal volumes, preferably with the ability to isolate individual internal sections of the testing device from one another for cleaning. Specification at 7:6-16; 7-21-11;6 (method for cleaning separate sections with the inventive filter testing device).

Kononov does not disclose or suggest a test device for testing filters *external to the test device*, as required by claim 11 (“the *external* connections include a filter connection *for connecting the filter or filter system to be tested*”), nor does Kononov disclose or suggest internal volumes which are selectively *isolable* from one another to permit cleaning operations to eliminate contaminants deposited in the filter testing device from externally-connected filters. Claim 11 (“said cleaning means including means for isolating the at least one internal volume to be cleaned from among said internal volumes during cleaning”).

Kononov discloses a filter system in which means for cleaning and testing an *internal* filter are integrally provided in the Kononov apparatus. Kononov at 3:2-4. Kononov does not disclose or suggest the internal volumes recited in claim 11 which are individually isolable during cleaning. Moreover, Kononov pressure sensor 46 is provided in a connection line at the head of the Kononov filter housing. Accordingly, a separation of the filter housing from the filter testing device or from the pressure sensor 46 is not possible, *i.e.*, these internal volumes

are not individually isolable, nor is there any teaching of external filter connections for testing of external filters.

In sum, Kononov fails to teach or suggest claim 11's features, including: a separate filter testing device connectable to different filters/filter systems; a plurality of internal volumes of a filter testing device being individually cleanable; and detection of pressure variations of a testing gas by a pressure sensor which is also separately cleanable. Accordingly, claim 11 and its dependent claims 12-20 are patentable over Kononov under §§ 102(b) and 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections based on Kononov is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-20 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

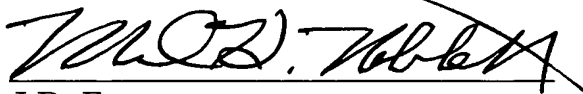
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010743.52910US).

January 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.D. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

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